

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02370

DEPT FOR EUR/CAN AND OES/NET/HOYLE
ERDA FOR SIEVERING AND HELFRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG
SUBJECT: CANADA/EURATOM NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. OTTAWA 508; B. EC BRUSSELS 2129

1. SUMMARY: GOC STILL HAVING DIFFICULTY REACHING AGREEMENT WITH EC ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS. PROBLEMS CITED IN REF B STILL PERTAIN. GOC SEEKING TEMPORARY BILATERALS WITH FRG, GOI, AND UK, BUT NO ASSURANCE EC WILL ACCEPT. COMPROMISE PROPOSED BY GOC ON MOVEMENT OF URANIUM AND OTHER MATERIALS FROM POINT TO POINT WITHIN A SINGLE COUNTRY (SUCH AS FRG) TO GET FUEL LINE STARTED. HOWEVER, COMPROMISE DOES NOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF ENRICHMENT OR REPROCESSING; RESOLUTION OF CURRENT PROBLEMS APPEARS TO DEPEND UPON A) U.S. POLICY TOWARD EC ON REPROCESSING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, B) GOF/IAEA/EC SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, AND C) EC ALLOWING TEMPORARY BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND LATER ACCEPTING NEW GOC SAFEGUARDS POLICY.

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2. ON 1 APRIL, SCICOUNS MET D. FULFORD OF EXTAFF TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CURRENT GOC/EC SAFEGUARDS NEGOTIATIONS. PROGRESS (OR LACK OF SAME) ON SPECIFIC "STICKING POINTS" AS FOLLOWS:

A. FREE MOVEMENT OF URANIUM AND OTHER MATERIALS AMONG EC MEMBERS--GOC HOLDING LINE ON APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF

MATERIALS BETWEEN STATES FOR ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING. ALTHOUGH GOF MAY AGREE NOT TO USE GOC URANIUM FOR OWN PURPOSES OR FOR EXPORT PURPOSES, IF IT ENRICHES URANIUM, GOF IS NOT NPT SIGNATORY AND GOC MAY REQUIRE IAEA INSPECTIONS. THE GOC HAS NOW TAKEN A HARDER LINE ON "BINDING GUIDELINES."

IN ATTEMPT TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF URANIUM TO FRG, GOC HAS PROPOSED GIVING POINT TO POINT APPROVAL FOR TRANSFERS WITHIN FRG. THIS WOULD END UP AS A "HOLD" AT SOME POINT IN FUEL CHAIN, BUT WOULD BE WAY TO GET SHIPMENTS STARTED.

B. "RATCHETING" OF SAFEGUARDS STANDARDS--GOC HAS BACKED OFF OF POSITION OF REQUIRING EC TO ACCEPT ANY FUTURE SAFEGUARDS WHICH MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE.

C. TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY--EC APPARENTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT NSG OBLIGATIONS, BUT NOT MORE. GOC HOPES TO LIMIT CANDU TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO BILATERAL BASIS.

D. ENRICHMENT OF CANADIAN URANIUM--IN AGREEMENT UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH JAPAN, CANADA HAS EASED UP ON CONTROLLING ALL LEVELS OF ENRICHMENT. NOW TALKING CONTROL OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT OF 20 PERCENT OR MORE. MAY DO SAME WITH EC.

E. DUPLICATION OF INSPECTIONS--ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS STILL IN NEGOTIATION TO ELIMINATE DUPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS INSPECTION FUNCTIONS, BETWEEN IAEA, EC, AND GOC. ENDERS
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